

**Leadership Council Resolution 2011-09  
Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for  
benthic invertebrate communities in small streams**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, benthic invertebrate communities in small streams provide a key indication that “... waters in the region are ... are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region” (RCW 90.71.300(1)(f)); and

**WHEREAS**, benthic invertebrate communities in small streams provide a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, benthic invertebrate communities in small streams provide a key indication of “healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web” (RCW 90.71.300(c)); and

**WHEREAS**, benthic invertebrate communities in small streams as measured by a number of monitoring efforts around the region and summarized in Puget Sound Stream Benthos database has been adopted by the Stormwater Monitoring Work Group as one of the key tools for assessing the status and trends of waters affected by stormwater runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts convened by Partnership staff have presented analyses about potential ecosystem recovery targets for benthic invertebrate communities in small streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the Science Panel provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership's guiding principles for target setting

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Lowland streams that support the salmonids and invertebrates native to this region.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership's ecosystem recovery target for benthic invertebrate communities in small streams shall be expressed as:

By 2020, 100% of Puget Sound lowland stream drainage areas monitored with baseline B-IBI scores of 42-46 or better retain these "excellent" scores and mean B-IBI scores of 30 Puget Sound lowland drainage areas improve from "fair" to "good"; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with partners to develop a robust system of monitoring and indicators to describe the condition of water bodies that are affected by stormwater runoff, especially measures of the incidence of pre-spawn mortality among salmon returning to Puget Sound lowland streams; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures and the effects of watershed management actions on stream habitat conditions and biological health.

Resolution Moved By: Diana Gale

Resolution Seconded By: Steve Sakuma

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:** June 16, 2011